



## Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

### **Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022** **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

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Asked by Jo Clay MLA on 7 November 2022: Mr Sam Engele took on notice the following question:

Reference: Hansard [uncorrected] proof transcript 7 November 2022, Page 84

In relation to: End of life recycling batteries

**MS CLAY:** Will we, in the contracts for these batteries, be including end of life recycling as part of those contracts?

**Mr Engele:** Yes, there is requirements around end of life and also for the transmission scale, also about how to use, essentially, were mediated at the signed. One of the complexities in the contracts there are their between 15 and 20-year term contracts have been offered but we understand that if someone is operating a very large-scale battery system on sites they may then choose to extend the use so those contracts so they have in place a means of making sure that when the systems are deactivated and all those things are removed from the site, that it is remediated and those are sent to recycling.

**MS CLAY:** That is really good to hear. Are we doing that as a standard contract term with all of our government solar panels and battery projects now?

**Mr Engele:** I am not sure about that but the big battery contracts are not standard because they are quite complex, but I would have to take that on notice to confirm in relation to solar PB contracts.

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Recycling is considered is a critical component of the Big Canberra Battery project. The requirements are tailored to the scale and purpose of each type of battery being procured under the project, so recycling is not handled via standard contract terms. An overview of recycling requirements for the active Big Canberra Battery procurements is included below.

#### Transmission Scale Batteries (Stream 1)

Respondents in the procurement must complete a draft Resource Recovery Plan (RRP), which will be assessed as part of the evaluation of responses. Suppliers must meet all mandatory requirements for

the RRP by providing an RRP that commits to recycling all materials that can legally be recycled. The RRP will be scored under the assessment criteria 'Social and Environmental Sustainability Outcomes'.

The plan, once developed, will be an appendix to the supplier's contract, and compliance with the plan is a contractual requirement.

This RRP must:

- a. create a register of all materials in the battery solution;
- b. outline how end of life will be identified for components;
- c. outline the plans for end of life of components.
  - i. if being recycled, identifying what the materials may be usable for (battery/electronics manufacturing, road base etc)
  - ii. if being reused, identifying who is responsible for end-of-life treatment after re-use; and
  - iii. If being landfilled, identifying why the materials cannot legally be recycled or feasibly be reused.

#### Batteries at Government Sites (Stream 2)

Respondents in the procurement must complete a draft decommissioning and end-of-life plan, which will be assessed as part of the evaluation of responses. Suppliers must meet all mandatory requirements for the decommissioning and end-of-life plan, including providing assurance that all materials will be taken back by the supplier and diverted from landfill unless otherwise required by law.

The plan, once developed, will be an appendix to the supplier's contract, and compliance with the plan is a contractual requirement.

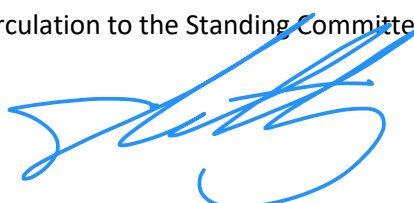
This decommissioning and end-of-life plan must include:

- a. a statement of all materials in the battery solution and which are not recyclable or reusable;
- b. an outline how batteries and associated infrastructure will be reused and recycled;
- c. processes for decommissioning and supplier take back for all components.

One of the two procurements released under Stream 2 of the Big Canberra Battery project included procuring solar PV at one government site. For this, end-of-life requirements outside of warranty requirements were required. Currently there is little recycling infrastructure for solar panels in Australia, however the Federal Government has recently announced on ABC Radio National their plans to mandate and regulate recycling of solar panels in the future.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Signature:



Date:

18/11/22

By the Acting Minister for Climate Action, Shane Rattenbury MLA